

Application No. 09/652,502
Amendment "A" dated February 4, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed November 4, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

A/ 1. ~~(Currently Amended) In an electronic messaging system having one or more~~ At a server computer system that is network connectable to a plurality of clients computer systems, at least first and second client computer systems being associated with a configured to indicate a status for and send and receive electronic messages for an electronic messaging user, having a master status reflected to one or more subscribers, a method for updating the a master status of the electronic messaging user not withstanding that the first client computer system and second client computer system may indicate different statuses for the electronic messaging user, the master status being the status that is reflected to other client computer systems, the method comprising the steps of:

~~assigning maintaining a first view status to for the electronic messaging user, the first view status indicating the status of the electronic messaging user as detected at the first client computer system; each of the one or more clients;~~

~~maintaining a second view status for the electronic messaging user, the second view indicating the status of the electronic messaging user as detected at the second client computer system;~~

~~receiving a first status update from the first client computer system, the first status update indicating that the first client computer system has detected a change in the status of the electronic messaging user;~~

~~in response to receiving the first a-status update received from one of the one or more clients, evaluating at least the first status update, the first view status, and the second view status according to specified status rules to determine the master status of the electronic messaging user each view status; and~~

~~updating storing the master status in a master view corresponding to of the electronic messaging user in accordance with the evaluation of the status update and each view status such that an appropriate status for the electronic messaging user is provided to other electronic messaging users.~~

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A) 2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ assigning further comprisinges the steps of:

associating a first view identifier with ~~each the first~~ view status; and

associating a second view identifier with each the second view status.

~~receiving a client status update and the view identifier from one of the one or more clients; and~~

~~updating the view status associated with the view identifier according to the client status update.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ assigning further comprisinges the steps of:

~~receiving a client status update from one of the one or more clients; and~~

updating the first view status ~~identified by a view identifier associating the view status with one of the one or more clients~~ in accordance with the client first status update.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ evaluating further comprises ~~the step of~~ determining whether the master status should reflect the first status update.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprisinges the step of reflecting the master status to at least one client computer system associated with another electronic messaging user. the one or more subscribers.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ updating-storing further comprises changing the master status to the status indicated in the first status update.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~the step of updating-storing~~ further comprises the step of ~~refraining from changing~~ retaining the master status even though the status indicated in the first to the status update differs from the master status.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein evaluating further comprises ~~at least one of the step of~~ changing the master status according to a priority system.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein ~~the step of~~ changing the master status according to a priority system further comprises the steps of:

changing the master status to offline if the first status update indicates the electronic messaging user is invisible;

refraining from changing the master status if the first status update indicates electronic messaging user is offline;

refraining from changing the master status if the first status update indicates the electronic messaging user is idle;

changing the master status to offline if the first status update indicates the electronic messaging user is offline and the one or more remaining view statuses associated with the messaging client, including the second view status, are indicate the electronic messaging user is offline; and

changing the master status to idle if the first status update is-indicates the electronic messaging user is idle and the one or more remaining view statuses associated with the messaging client, including the second view status, are-indicate the electronic messaging user is consist of idle and or offline.

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10. (Currently Amended) At a server that is network connectable to a plurality of clients, in an electronic communication system each client in the plurality of clients having maintaining a status for an electronic messaging user and each client being configured to receive electronic messages addressed to the electronic messaging user, the electronic messaging user having presence information maintained at a the server, a method for updating the presence information of the user that is to be reflected to subscribers, the method comprising the steps of:

creating, at the server, a view status for each of the one or more clients in the plurality of clients, each view status representing the status of the electronic messaging user detected at a corresponding client, wherein each view status being associated with each client is identified by a unique view identifier;

altering consolidating the presence information from for the electronic messaging user based on an evaluation of each view status such that the consolidated presence information is representative of a current status of the electronic messaging user even if some view statuses differ, wherein the consolidated presence information is maintained in a master view and is reflected to the subscribers;

receiving, at the server, a status update from one of the one or more clients; and

updating the consolidated presence information for the electronic messaging user in the master view reflected to the subscribers according to based on an evaluation of the status update and each view status.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein ~~the step of~~ creating further comprises ~~the step of~~ receiving a first status change at the server, the first status change being representative of an initial status of one of the one or more clients.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein ~~the step of~~ altering consolidating the presence information further comprises ~~the step of~~ comparing each view status to determine a current status of the user, the current status corresponding to the presence information.

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13. (Original) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein each status update is reflected in an associated client view status, the associated client view status being identified by a view identifier sent with each status update.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein ~~the step of~~ updating further comprises ~~the step of~~ changing the presence information according to a priority system.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein ~~the step of~~ changing the presence information according to a priority system further comprises at least one of the steps of:

changing the presence information to offline if the status update indicates the electronic messaging user is invisible;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update indicates the electronic messaging user is offline;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update indicates the electronic messaging user is idle;

changing the presence information to offline if the status update indicates the electronic messaging user is offline and the remaining view statuses indicate the electronic messaging user are is offline;

changing the presence information to idle if the status update the electronic messaging user is idle and the remaining view statuses consist of indicate the electronic messaging user is idle and or offline; and

changing the presence information to match the status update.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein ~~the step of~~ updating further comprises ~~the step of~~ reflecting the updated presence information in the master view to the subscribers.

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A/ 17. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein ~~the step of~~ updating further comprises ~~the step of~~ changing the client view status associated with the status change, such that the client view status accurately reflects the status change.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method ~~steps~~ recited in claim 10.

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19. (Currently Amended) In an instant messaging group having a user associated with multiple clients, each client configured to detect a status of the user and to send and receive electronic messages for the user, the user having consolidated presence information representative of a master status stored at a server, the master status representing the status that is reflected to subscribers even if the user status detected at some of the multiple clients differs, a method for reflecting the master status to subscribers, the method comprising the steps of:

for each of the multiple clients, creating a client view status at a server when each of the multiple clients sends a first status change to the server, each client view status representing the status of the user as detected at a corresponding client;

assigning a view identifier to each client view status when the first status change is received at the server, wherein ~~the each~~ view identifier associates ~~each one~~ of the multiple clients with a ~~particular~~ corresponding client view status;

setting the master status based on an evaluation of each client view status;

for each subsequent status change received from one of the multiple clients, updating the master status in accordance with an evaluation of the subsequent status change and each client view status, wherein the presence information reflected to the subscribers corresponds to the master status.

20. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the client view status is representative of a current status of an associated client.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein ~~the step of~~ setting the master status further comprises ~~the step of~~ reflecting the master status to the subscribers.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein ~~the step of~~ updating the master status further comprises ~~the step of~~ changing the master status according to a priority system.

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A/ 23. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 22, wherein ~~the step of~~ changing the master status according to a priority system further comprises at least one of the steps of:

changing the master status to offline if the subsequent status update indicates the user is invisible;

refraining from changing the master status if the status update indicates the user is offline;

refraining from changing the master status if the subsequent status update indicates the user is idle;

changing the master status to offline if the subsequent status update indicates the user is offline and the remaining client view statuses indicate the user is are offline;

changing the master status to idle if the subsequent status update indicates the user is idle and the remaining client view statuses consist of indicate the user is idle and or offline; and

changing the master status to match the subsequent status update.

24. (Original) A method as defined in claim 19, wherein the master status reflected to the subscribers is representative of a current status of the user.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 19, further comprising ~~the step of~~ selecting one of the client view statuses to be represented in the master status.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method steps recited in claim 19.

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A/ 27. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for ~~implementing use~~ in an instant messaging system having a user associated with one or more clients, each client in the one or more clients configured to detect a status of the user and to send and receive electronic messages for the user, the user having presence information reflected to subscribers, ~~the computer program product for implementing a method for updating the presence information~~, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium carrying executable instructions that, when executed, cause a server to perform the following~~for performing the method, wherein the method includes the steps for:~~

~~creating, at a server,~~ a view status for each of the one or more clients, each view status representing the status of the user detected at a corresponding client, each wherein the view status being associated with each client is identified by a unique view identifier;

~~altering/consolidate the presence information for the user from based on~~ an evaluation of each view status such that the consolidated presence information is representative of a current status of the user;

~~receiving, at the server,~~ a status update from one of the one or more clients;

updating the consolidated presence information for the user according to the status update; and

~~reflecting the updated consolidated~~ presence information to the subscribers such that appropriate presence information is provided to the subscribers even if some view statuses differ.

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28. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as defined in claim 27, wherein ~~the step of~~ updating the presence information further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

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changing the presence information to offline if the status update indicates the user is invisible;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update indicates the user is offline;

refraining from changing the presence information if the status update indicates the user is idle;

changing the presence information to offline if the status update indicates the user is offline and the remaining view statuses indicate the status of the user is are offline;

changing the presence information to idle if the status update indicates the user is idle and the remaining view statuses indicate the user is ~~consist of~~ idle and ~~or~~ offline; and

changing the presence information to match the status update.
